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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 9, 16 to 19, 27 to 32 and 38 to 60 are pending.
Claims 43 to 55 are withdrawn and claims 56 to 60 are new.

No claims are allowed.

1. The Examiner indicates that newly submitted claims 43 to 55 should be withdrawn from consideration as being directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. The Examiner reasons that the "original claims do not require the contacting of a fluorinated carbon" to the titanium oxide outer layer on the titanium current collector. The Applicants respectfully disagree. As originally filed, independent claim 1 called for a titanium current collector provided with an outer layer in contact with the cathode active material and consisting essentially of titanium oxide. Dependent claim 4 is directed to a raft of suitable cathode active materials including fluorinated carbon. Thus, new independent claims 43, 46 and 50 include aspects of the present invention that are supported by the disclosure as well as the originally filed claims.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4 to 8, 16, 17, 19, 27, 28, 30 to 32 and 39 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Disselbeck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,670,278) or Frysz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,114,810) in view of Liang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,391,729). However, independent claims 1, 16 and 27 have been amended to include the subject matter of objected to claims 3, 18 and 29, respectively. As such, they are believed to be directed to patentable subject matter. Claims 2, 4 to 8, 17, 19,

28, 30 to 32 and 39 are allowable as hinging from patentable base claims. Claims 3, 18 and 29 have been cancelled.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

3. Claims 3, 9, 18, 29, 38 and 40 to 42 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As previously discussed in section 2 above, the subject matter of claims 3, 18 and 29 has been amended into independent claims 1, 16 and 27, respectively.

The subject matter of claims 1 and 9 has been combined to provide new independent claim 56.

The subject matter of claims 27 and 38 has been combined to provide new independent claim 57.

The subject matter of claims 27 and 40 has been combined to provide new independent claim 58.

The subject matter of claims 27 and 41 has been combined to provide new independent claim 59.

It is believed that claims 1, 2, 4 to 9, 16, 17, 19, 27, 28, 30 to 32 and 38 to 60 are now in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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